

A
FRENCH
Touching the
East-Indian Trade:

OR,
A Discourse (Turned out of French into
English) Concerning the Establishment of a
FRENCH COMPANY
For the COMMERCE of the
EAST-INDIES.

To which are Annexed the
Articles, and Conditions,
Whereupon the said **COMPANY**
for the COMMERCE of the
EAST-INDIES
is Established.

LONDON.

Printed for Thomas Motte for Henry Bronté at the Sign of the Frenchman.

BRITANNIA
London: by the
Editor of the
British Library

1750
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Editor of the
British Library

1750
London: by the
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To the Reader.

Not to Usher in this following Discourse with a long and Needlesse Preface, It shall suffice that the Publisher thought it worth the Translating, both as an Entertainment to himself, and as a further Service and Respect to his Country-men. You have the Scope of it in the Title, viz. A Discourse touching the Establish-

blishment of a **FRENCH COMPANY** for the **COMMERCE** of the **EAST-INDIES**: which Discourse conteins, in short, an Earnest and well-concid'd Recommendation of Commerce, by diverse Arguments of Utility, and Conveniencie as well Private, as Publicque; drawn from the Experience, and successe of those Nations, that have applyed themselves to Traflique: Adjudging severall Advantages in fine, to the French above all other People in the World, in order to the Dominion of the Sea, and settling of an Universal Trade; Wherin, our Neighbours (howe clear-fighted soever in other matters,) may perhaps live to finde their Mistake, and that it will cost them more than the dust of a Pepto

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become our Rivals; Especiall at a
time, when the Humour of the People
runs so violently that way, and upon a
Point, which the most ~~Absolute~~ So
vereign of the Seas in the whole Uni
verse (CHARLES the Second, and
the Great) has taken upon himself
to carry on (within the Bounds of
Honour, and Justice) to the highest
degree of Improvement, and Reputa
tion Imaginable.

To the Treatise above mentioned here
are likewise Annexed the Articles
and Conditions themselves, as they
were presented to his most Christian
Majesty at Fountain-Bleau, where
they Received the Royall Sanction;
and were forthwith Imprinted at Pa
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ris; And the Reader may take fur-
ther notice, that his most Christian
Majestie's Allowances are Inserted
in the Margin.

Imprimatur

June 23. 1664.

Roger L'Estrange.

A Discourse Written by a Faith-
full Subje&t to His Christian Majesty, Con-
cerning the Establishment of a French Com-
pany for the Commerce of the East-Indies.
Dedicated to the Whole French Nation.



It is a Matter of great Reputation, and Security to any State, to have a People trayned up in the Knowledge and Exercise of Arms ; so is it of great Utility, and Convenience, that they likewise addic& themselves to Commerce, by which means the Benefits of the whole World are brought Home to their own doores : Beside that by this Employment alone, are acquired the Two Things which Wise men accompt of all Others, the most Necessary to the well-being of a Common-Wealthe : That is to say ; a General Industry of Mende, and Hardynesse of Body, which never fayle to be accompanied with Honour and Plenty. So that Questionlesse, where Commerce does not flourish, as well as other Professions, and where Particular Persons out of a Habit of Lazynesse, neglect at once

the Noblest way of Employing their times, and the fairest occasions of Advancing their Fortunes, That Kingdome though otherwise never so Glorious wants something of being Compleatly happy. But in truth, it is with *Commerce*, as with the *Liberal Sciences*, that Man or State that would improve either of them, must be at *quiet*; *quiet* being the same thing to a *Community*, which *Tranquillity* of *Minde* is to each *Individual*. What can be more Importune, or Unseasonable, then in the middle of a *Warr* either Foreign, or Intestine, when *every Mans Duty* calls upon him to defend his Country, for People to be Undertaking of long Voyages and Transporting themselves into Remote Parts, their Principal Obligation and Businesse lying at Home! In such a Case as This, He that *absents* himself from his Country, is in Construction a *Desertor* of it, and turns That, which at another time, were an Honest, and Laudable desire of Benefit, into a Criminal Avarice. The Broyles and Troubles of *France* for these *Hundred Years* and upwards, are so well known, that to tell the Story, were but needlessly to revive the Memory of those Misfortunes, which we must strive to forget; It shall suffice therefore to Note, that the State of *France*, having scaped so many Tempests, and Rocks, was yet once again emplunged in a *Ci-vill Warr* at the Beginning of the Last Kings Reign, upon the Point of Religion, which *Affaire* being happily determined, and the People Reduced to their Obedience, without any Violence, either to their Liberties, or Consciences; there succeeded an Obligation to Engage in a Contest with Strangers, which proved to be One of the longest *Warrs*, that has been known in *France* since the Foundation of This *Monar-chy*:

aby: And though the Justice of the Cause: the Valour of the Prince, and the Wisdom of his Council, have never fayled of being attended with Victory; Yet certain it is, that these Advantages have not been obteyned without Infinite Care and Labour throughout the whole Body of the State. So that it is nowonder, if the French having so much to doe at *Home*, look'd but little *Abroad*; Especially, into the Busynesse of *Navigation*, and *Traffique*, wherein our Neighbours in the *Interim* have bestowed so much study, and diligence; and from whence they have likewise reaped so much Reputation, and Profit. Some Private Enter-
prizes indeed have been set a foot, and without that Successe, which the Undertakers promised to themselves: But this will not appear Strange at all, if we consider, that the greater Part of the Adventurers, having other Affaires wherein they were more nearly Concerned, during our Troubles, did neither vigorously pursue what they had begun, nor indeed so much as take the Peyns, to keep the Frame of their Designe in Order. But now that it has pleased God to give *France* the Peace it has so long desired, and the enjoyment of that Peace under the Government of a Prince, whose wise Conduct and Steady Application to Busynesse are at once the Wonder, and the Jealousie of all *Europe*: Now I say, for our Country-men not to put themselves forward toward the Recovery of a Right which they can never loose, and toward the gaining to themselves, of those inestimable Benefits, which their Neighbours receive, by the Settlement of a glorious *Commerce*, were to administer just reason of Astonishment.

Now of all *Commerce*s whatsoever throughout the whole World, That of the *East-Indies* is One of the most Rich and Considerable. From *Thence* it is (the Sun being kinder to them, then to us) that we have our Merchandize of greatest Value, and that which Contributes the most, not only to the Pleasure of Life; but also to Glory, and Magnificence. From *Thence* it is, that we fetch our Gold, and Precious Stones, and a Thousand other Commodities, (both of a General Esteem, and a Certain Return) to which we are so accustomed, that it is impossible for us to be without them, as *Silk*, *Cinamome*, *Pepper*, *Ginger*, *Nutmegs*, *Cotton-Clothes*, *Quare* (vulgarly *Waiting*) *Porcelain*, *Woods* for *Dyeing*, *Ivory*, *Frankincense*, *Bezoar*, &c. So that having an absolute Necessity upon us, to make use of all these things, why we should not rather furnish *Our Selves*, then take them from *Others*, and apply that Profit hereafter to our own Country-men, which we have hitherto allowed to *Strangers*, I cannot understand. Why should the *Portuguez*, the *Hollanders*, the *English*, the *Danes* Trade dayly to the *East-Indies* possessing there, their *Magazins*, and their *Forts*, and the *French* neither the *One*, nor the *Other*? What does it signifie to us, that we have so many good *Forts*, and *Vessels*, so many Experienced *Sea-men*, so many brave *Souldiers*? To what end is it in fine, that we Pride our selves to be Subjects of the *Prince Monarch of the universe*? If being so, we dare not so much as shew our Heads in those Places where our Neighbours have Established themselves with Power? Were it not in a manner better for us to be without these Advantages then not to use them; and to rest where we are, for want of *Ability* to go further, then for want of *Resolution*? Would it not be a

Shame

Shame to us, to make a difficulty of Attempting That in a State of Security, which other People have carryed on through all doubts, and Hazzards? And to stick at the bare Crossing of thole Seas, which Others ventured upon, even before they were known? Is it, that we lack either *Industry*, to make use of their *Inventions*, or *Courage*, to follow their *Example*? Would we have any thing more easie, then to reap the fruits of Others Mens Travails: or any stronger Assurance of a good Event, then the Wealth, and Glory, which they enjoy, that have tryed the Experiment.

True it is, that there is a certain Glory, which is so inseparable from the Inventors of things, that it is entirely theirs without any possibility of Communication. The *Portuguez* will be for ever Famous for their Discoveries in the *East*, and even their Kings themselves, think it no dishonour, to be thought the first Proectors of That Enterprize. They say, that in the Year 1420. *Henry Duke de Viseo*, Son of King *John the First*, being eminently skill'd in the *Mathematiques*, took up a strong perswasion, that there must be of necessity more *Islands* in That Ocean, then were yet known, and so sent out Certain Vessels upon the Search, which discovered the Isle of *Madera*: After which, Others sayling along the Coast of *Africa*, made New Discoveries. This Designe, that had been so luckily set afoot, was however interrupted by the Wars, during the Reigns of *Edward the Successor of John the First*, and of *Alphonsus*: but *John the Second*, who succeeded *Alphonsus*, (in persuance of his Predecessors Beginnings,) sent out One *Bartholomew Diaz* in 1487. to skirt the whole Coast of *Africa*, and He it was, that first doubled the *Cape of Good-Hope*, to which

which at first he gave the Name of *Cabo Tormentoso*, because of the Storms, which are frequent thereabouts. And this Name perchance would have continued, if the King himself had not thought fit to Change it for One of a better Omen, (the *Cape of Good-Hope*,) which was grounded upon the Hope he had, that this new Progresse would open a way to the Conquest of the *Oriental Indies*, an Acquisition, which he thirsted for, with exceeding Passion. Yet before he would venture his Shipping into so vast a Sea, diverse Persons were sent by Land to the *Indies*, to enform themselves from the best Pilots of the Country, in order to the Voyage; But King *John* Dying upon the Preparative, left the *Conisummation* of this great Work to his Successour *Emanuel*, who having sufficiently Instructed himself, as to the carrying of it forward, dispatched away Four Vessels from *Lisbon* in *July 1497.* under the Command of *Vasco de Gama*, who in *May* following Arrived before *Calicut* having doubled the *Cape of Good-Hope*, notwithstanding the Storms he met with; and the violent Importunities of his People, pressing him to return. After Two Years Absence, he brought the Newes himself of his Prosperous Voyage, and laid the Foundation of greater Hopes to Come. In the Year following, the King sent thither again 14. Ships, under the Charge of *Pedro Alvarez*, and after that, diverses other Fleets to secure and Fortifie themselves in a Place, where they found so vast a Treasure; and thus it came to passe, that when the King of *Castile* seized upon all the New Lands, upon the West, the *Portuguez* did the same in the East, and This was it, that gave Occasion to the Famous *Partition* made by Pope *Alexander the Sixth*, who drawing an Imaginary Line

Line, from one Pole to the Other, (to pass at a Hundred Leagues from the *Afors*) Adjudged to the King of *Castile* all that which was on the West-side of the Line, not meddling with any of those Establishments, which the King of *Portugal* had upon the East, which since the *Voyage* of *Vasco de Gama* have been Infinitely encreased. Thus did the Constant Resolution of these Princes surmount all Difficulties; bringing both Glory to themselves, and Happinesse to their Subjects. Thus did these new *Argonauts* address themselves to the Conquest of the Reall Golden Fleece: for in fine, the *Portuguez* are Indebted to this Navigation for almost all they are worth. This it is, that has made them Famous in the World, and raised them into an Eminent Reputation, although One not onely of the Smallest, but of the least Fruitfull Kingdome of *Europe*. It is this Traffique, (which they have now been sole Masters of a Hundred Years entire) that has put them in Condition to carry so high the Undertakings which we have seen in our dayes, and they would finde it a very hard Matter to Cope, even with the Enemy at their Gates, if it were not, that the inexhaustible Source of their *Indian* Treasure, and Trade from time to time supplyes them, for the Expence of so long, and so dangerous a Warr.

What has it been, but this very Navigation, and Traffique, that has enabled the *Hollanders* to bear up against the Power of *Spain*, with Forces so unequal; Nay, and to become terrible to them, and to bring them down at last to an Advantageous Peace? Since that time it is, that this People, who had not onely the *Spaniards*, *Abroad*; but the very Sea, and Earth at *Home* to struggle with, have in a despite of all Opposition made themselves so Considerable, that they

Begin

begin now to dispute Power, and Plenty, with the greatest part of their Neighbours. This Observation is no more then Truth, their *East-India* Company being known to be the Principall support of their State, and the most sensible cause of their Greatnesse. In the mean while, who would have Imagined that the Union of a few Particular Merchants, that but in 1595. bethought themselves of the very Project, and did not Form this Grand Company till Six or Seaven Years after, should ever have raised them to that point of Opulence, where they now stand? It is known, that *Communibus annis*, there has been yearly 30, or 35. per Cent. clear Gain to the Sharers; and it is an Easie matter likewise, to make a near Calculation of their Occasional Expences, and yet all This deducted, when they came to make a General Computation of the Estate of the Company in the Year 1661. Reckoning what they might have in ready *Cash*, in *Merchandize*, the value of their Shipping, Cannon, and what thereunto belongs, the Estimate upon the whole, amounted to a Summe so Prodigious, that it almost exceeds all possibility of Credit: Not accompting all this while, that this Company possesses more Land in the *Indies*, then the *States of Holland* have in the *Low Countries*; and This is it, that Maintains for them Fourteen, or Fifteen Thousand Souldiers, to make good what they have got, beside Sea-men, and other People, which they employ up and down to the number of near Fourscore Thousand Persons, all subsisting thereupon. So vast an encrease of Wealth from so small a Beginning would passe absolutely for Fabulous, if we did not both See, and Know, that at this day the *Hollanders* are the best monyed People of *Europe*; and that

that in Their Country, an Inheritance is worth more, then in any Other part of the World: An *Estate in Fee* commonly Selling there at 60. Years Purchase, and *Lands in Socage*, at 50; Whereas Money goes but at Three *per Cent.* (so much is it Cheaper then other Goods:) And this does not proceed, I hope from the Emprowvement of their drayned *Marshes* into Pasturage; nor from the Culture of their other Grounds (which are certainly none of the Best) but barely from their *Traffique*, and chiefly from That of the *East-Indies*.

About the same time with the *Hollanders*, did the *English* likewise advise upon the same designe, and Formed a Company at *London*, for the *East-India Trade*. This Company set out Four Ships in the Year 1600, which succeeded so well, that in a short space of time, the *English* made Twenty Voyages thither. This *new Society* was powerfully Protected, and Encouraged, by his Majesty of *England*; who in 1608. sent Sir *William Hawkins* in the Quality of Embassadour to the great *Mogol* (to demand a free *Trade*) in despite of all the Obstacles, which both the *Portuguez*, and the *Hollanders* endeavored then to cast in the way. In 1615. His Majesty sent Sir *Thomas Roe*, and after Him other Embassadours to the Kings of *Japan* upon the same Errand, who wrought so well upon the Humour of those *Barbarians*, that they not onely obteyned their desires; but gained so far upon the Affections of the People, that the *Hollanders* themselves, in order to their better Welcome, would often pretend to be *English-men*. This Company prevailed also with the King of *Perſia*, for great *Privileges* in his *Territories*, in Consequence of the Service they did him against the *Portuguez* about

the Siege of *Ormuz*. But it had been well, if they had found him as just in the Execution, as he was Ease in the Promise. However; be it as it will, This Company has made it self very Considerable in the Indies, and has at present diverse Mony Tables there under Two Principall Directors, or Presidents; the One of which has his Residence at *Surat*, and the Other at *Bantam*, by whose Authority the Trade of those Parts is Menaged. Thus has the Industry, and Valour of these People Establish'd, and Mainteyned their Commerce against all Opposition, and though their Enemies have done their utmost to Crush their Designe, and brought the difference even to an open and Bloody Warr, they have gayned nothing but shame by the Contest, without ever being able to hinder their Course, and Progress, which indeed they had no Colour at all to Endeavour to obstruct.

The *Danes* it's truth, Menage not so great a Trade, in the Indies as the Rest; neither are their Fleets there so Numerous; but some Concernment they have likewise in the Voyage, and their Agents upon the Place; and from time to time they send out Shipping thither. Their Businesse lies commonly in the *Gulf of Bengal*, upon the Coast of *Pegu*, and in certain Isles of the South, where they have rendred themselves Considerable.

In fine, the Famous *Gustavus Adolphus* King of *Suede* thought himself obliged, as upon a point of Honour, and Greatnes, that His Subjects also should Visit the *Oriental-Indies*, and other Parts of the World; and in the very Instant, that this Prince (whose minde was set upon *Dominion, and Glory*) was disposing of his design to enter *Germany*, and Contriving the Ruine of

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the House of *Austria*, he had likewise in his *Projects* the Forming of a *Suedish Company*, for this great *Navigation*, Inviting his People to Interest themselves therein, as by his *Letters-Patents*, dated at *Stockholme* the 14th. of *June, 1626.* is made to appear; but the *Warr of Germany*, and the *Death of this Great Prince* coming on soon after, would not permit him to see the Accomplishment of this Design, which since that time has been again renewed.

All this Considered, what would the *French Nation* have to say for themselves, if they should now let slip the Opportunity of an Enterprize, that has rewarded all that have ever Embarqued in it, with Reputation, and Profit? If we have neglected it hitherto, it may serve for an Excuse, that we have not been hitherto in Condition to attend it, by reason of our Constant Troubles. But now that we are in a State of Tranquillity, and Peace, what shall acquit us to Posterity, if we deferr it any Longer? It would be very ill done indeed to envy our Neighbours the Fruits of their Honest, and Lawfull Industry; but it would not be well on the other side, to decline the same Means of Enriching our selves, if it were but for the Conservation of our *Common-Good*, the Benefits of *Commerce* serving as a Recompence of *Their Labour*, and *Travail*, while the greater Part of *Our People* lye Lazing at Home, as of no Use, and without Employment.

But Men are not easily persuaded to Engage upon new Adventures, they are afraid, that things will not prove to their mindes, and every man is unwilling to make the first step. These thoughts doubtles might well enough have become the *Portuguez*, that had a vast Sea before them, and were to passe into another *Climate*,

and under other Stars, without any knowledge of the Course they were to steer. This Apprehension might have been pardoned also in the *Hollanders*, whose design lay in a Country, where their Mortall Enemies were Masters, and where they were in more danger from the *Portuguez*, than either from *Storms*, or the *Barbarians* themselves. But now that the former of these has led the way to this Fortunate Land, and the Latter has disabused us, as to any fear of Perill from those that were there before us, we must be willfully blinde, not to agree upon an Advantage so Certain upon the Accompt, and so easy to obteyn. For whether *France* be more Potent, or not, than any other Nation, that Trades to the *Indies* is not the Question; neither can it be disputed, whether the *French* have not as good Commodity for this *Traffique* as any other People; if it be considered, that we are possessed already beyond the *Cape of Good-Hope*, of the Iland of St. *Laurence* or *Madagascar*, the Largest Island of all That Sea, being no less than *Seven Hundred Leagues* in *Compas*, and in the most agreeable *Climate* of all *India*. The Aire is so Temperate, that the same Clothes which we wear here in the *Spring*, may serve there the whole year through; and Experience tells us, that the *Heats* of *France* are more troublesome; then those of St. *Laurence*. The *Style* is proper for all sorts of *Grain*, and *Trees*, and askes nothing but dressing to be Admirable. There is no need of carrying Provisions thither, as to other Islands, for the support of the *Colonyes*; for the Abundance of every thing being so great, that the Country produces enough for it Self, and to Spare. The *Waters* are Excellent, the *Fruits* delicious, and without *Hyperbole*, the Place may be Improved into a

Paradise. Over and above This, there are *Golden Mines* in such Plenty, that in great falls of Rain, and Ravages of Water, the *Veins* of *Gold* discover themselves all along the Coast, and upon the Mountains. The Inhabitants are of a Disposition tractable enough, and with good Usage ready, and willing to be Employed in any service; being a People Humble, and Obedient, and of a Humour farr differing from Those of the Country, and of the Islands further up in the *Indies*, who will not upon any Terms Subject themselves to Labour: Whereas These on the Contrary, both love it themselves, and take pleasure to see the *Christians* Work. The Country is shared among diverse petty Kings, who are still making War One upon the other, and from whose ditagreements we might easily take a Rife to an Absolute Establishment of our selves among them. Beyond this Place the Trading lyes open without difficulty into *India, China, Japan*, and more Commodityous yet to the Coasts of *Ethiopia*, and Territories of the *Emperour* of the *Abissins*; (where *Commerce* is scarce understood) to *Sofola*; where are the Richest *Gold-Mines* upon the Face of the Earth, to *Quama Melinda*, to the *Red-Sea*, and throughout the *Persian-Gulph*. In a word, there is not any where a fitter Place for a General *Magazin* of all Commodities, to be brought from those Parts into *Europe*, then is This Island. But this Convenience should not yet hinder us from Planting also in other Places, where it may be expedient for the Good of our Affairs; and such a Place we have in our Eye, where no Person as yet Inhabits, which we have now in our Power to Seize upon, and where the greatest *Commerce* might be Established, that has been yet known in the

World. (Where this Place is shall be declared in fit season) So that it is our Part now, not to let so many favourable Concurrences slip through our fingers, and to loose the Benefit of so faire an Occasion. We are apt to admire the good Fortune of Our Neighbours, and it deserves it. But 'tis not enough barely to admire, unless we also Emulate it; Especially, having so many Encouragements to promise our selves a success, at least Equal, if not Superior to any, that have gone before us. Besides there is a great part of the World, that remains still unknown, Vast *Regions*, that are not yet discovered: So that although Others have had the good Fortune to have preceded us, we may yet have the Honour to carry the Businesse further then they have done. But as it seems necessary for the bringing of this great design to Effect that we should follow the Example of other People, in forming a *Company* among our selves for the *Navigation* of the *East-Indies*, and that we must needs do the *Hollanders* this Right to acknowledg, that their *Society* is both the Richest and the best Read in the Mystery of that *Commerce* of all; that have ever Medled with it. It will not be amisse to look into the Constitution of that Company, and the manner of their Proceedings, that any Man may the better Judge, Whether we have any Reason or no, to doubt of doing as much, as they have done before us.

The Warr betwixt *Spain*, and *Holland* having Ruined one Part of the *Hollanders* *Commerce*, without which they would have had much adoe to subsist. Certain Merchants of *Zealand* Associated among themselves

felvies in the Year 1592. To go and trade in the *East-Indies*; and particularly in such places, where the *Portuguez* had nothing to do: but to avoid the Hazard of being too near the Line, they resolved to search a Passage toward the *North*, and so to Coast about *Tartary*, and *Cathay*, and from thence to fall into *China*, and the *Indies*. This Voyage not succeeding to their wish, they joyned themselves afterwards with some Merchants of *Amsterdam*, and All together Equipp'd a small Fleet of Four Vessells, which they sent forth to *India* by the Ordinary way, under the Command of one *Cornelius Aoutman*, who having lived long at *Lisbon*, had learned from the *Portuguez* the Secret of this *Navigation*. In 1595. they departed, and at the End of Two Years, and Four Months Returned, without making any Profit of their Voyage. This little disappointment did not hinder them from forming at the same time a *Second Company*, in the same Town of *Amsterdam*; and these Two Companies being United, set forth a Fleet of Eight Ships, that went out in 1598. while a *Third Company* in *Zealand* were making Ready for the same designe. In the Year 1599. Certain Other Merchants of *Amsterdam* (the most part of them *Brabanders*) framed yet Another *Company* apart from all the Rest, which sent also Four Vessells to the *Indies*. In 1600. This latter *Company* set out Two more, which Joyned themselves to Six other of the First *Company*, and these Eight Ships being gone, the Members of these Two Companies, not waiting for their Return Equipp'd Thirteen Vessells (the First Company Nine, and the Latter Four;) and this Fleet went to Sea in *Aprrill* 1601. putting the Profits of the First Voyage, into

2 Stock for a second *Equipage*. There were at that time some Merchants of *Rotterdam*, and *North-Holland*, that were Modelling of *Companies* separate from the Rest (which Encreating in this manner gave greatly to fear, that one would spoyle the Other;) Whereupon the *States* foreseeing what disorder this Division might cause, persuaded them to Unite all their Interest, and to send their *Deputies* to the *Hague*, to Endeavour there to draw them all into one *Company*, in which Proposition the Parties Concerned did acquiesce, and so there was Constituted one *Generall Company* for the *East-Indian Navigation*, with a *Grant*, or *Privilege* from the *States*, Expressly Inhibiting all other the Inhabitants of the *United Provinces* to *Traffique* in the *Indies*, from the *Cape of Good Hope*, to the furthest Part of *China*, for the Term of *One and Twenty Years*, to begin from the 20th. of *March 1602*. By this *Grant*, it was left free for all Persons whatsoever to enter themselves into the *Company* for what Summe they pleas'd; Provided, that they declared themselves, within *Five Months*; after which no more should be received upon what Terms soever. In this Space of time, they gathered together a *Fond*, or *Stock* of *Six Millions*, and *Six Hundred Thousand Livres* mony of the Country (which make *Seaven Millions, Nine Hundred and Twenty Thousand Livres of France*) and no Man since That has been taken anew into the *Company* at least without having bought the share of some of the *First Interested*, which they call *B U Y I N G O F A N A C T I O N*. There were made also diverse Rules, for the Maintaining of Order and preserving the Interest of Each Particular, which were Explained in the *Grant*. In the mean while, the *First Term* Expiring

at 20. p. m.
66,000. *Lib. sli.*

piting in March 1613, it was continued for One and Twenty Years longer, and in 1643, renewed again for 27. Years, in Consideration of a Million and Six Hundred Thousand Livres given to the State; and they are now Soliciting to renew their Privilege again for a further Term.

The First Sum, of Six Millions, and Six Hundred Thousand Livres, was Employed upon the Equipping of a Fleet of Fourteen Sayle, that set out in February, 1603, and after that, of Another of Thirteen that Departed in the December following. Till then, the Persons Interested, made no Benefit at all of their Adventure, for being divided into so many Private Companies, they were faine to lay out all their Gaines upon a Stronger Equipage. But upon the Return of these Two Fleets, the Profit was so great, that in 1605, the Company got Fifteen, for a Hundred, and in 1606, Seventy five, for a Hundred. So that in this short time, they wanted but Ten in the Hundred of Reimbursing themselves their Original Summe. In this Interim, the Company did not slacken at all in their Preparations, and Provisions. They Treated with the Indian Kings, built Fortresses, and every where enlarged their Conquests, which vast expences notwithstanding, it appeared in May 1613, that every man was Reimbursed his Principal, and had over and above, a hundred and sixty, Profit. As for example; He that in 1602, put Four Thousand Franks into the Stock of the Company, had Received in 1613, Ten thousand and Four hundred profit, and yet his Original good in the Common-stock. And this Gain has been so much Augmented since that time, that there are few Years, wherein they get less, then 30. per Cent. In 1661. They gained 40. In 1662.

there was no distribution at all, by reason of their ships lost, which they have never heard of since; beside the extraordinary Charge they were at for the Seige of Cochin; but in 1663. they had 30. again per Cent.

The Company at every ~~Year~~ Yeares End makes a General Inventory of the whole Business; and by That, which was made in 1663. it was found to be in Possession of the Immense Wealth above-mentioned.

This Company has not only Enriched Particulars; but the Advantages, which the Body of the Re-Publique draws continually from it, are almost Inestimable. In the First Place, all Commodities, that are brought from the Indies into the States Ports, pay at Least Seaven in the Hundred, and before they come into France, are unladen in Holland, where they pay all their Rights of I N and O N T (before they come to us) arising to Six per Cent. and One per Cent. more for the Duties of Convoy, which Seaven per Cent. go Clear to the Re-publique, beside Two in the Hundred more for ~~Storage~~; and the Charge of Merchandises. So that upon this Reckoning, we pay Twelve per Cent. more for Indian Commodities, then they would Cost us, if we fetched them our Selves. Whence it follows, that our ~~N~~gociants, making the same Profit of these Merchandizes, which the Holland Company does, might be able to furnish us at Twelve in the Hundred better Cheap, then Others; because we should save the Duties, that are now paid in Holland; (at Expence that every Year draws V. Summs out of France, where are Consumed at least a Third Part of what the Hollanders bring out of the Indies.

A Second Advantage, which the *States* draw from this Company, is, that upon Every Renewing of their Grant, it makes them a Considerable Present. The Last (as we have said already) amounting to no less than Sixteen Hundred Thousand Ligures.

In the Third Place, it maintaines at least Fourscore Thousand Men, the Greater Part whereof would otherwise be a Burthen to the State.

The Last, and the most Important Consideration is, that this Company, in weakening the *Commerce* of the *Portuguez*, who were a long time under the Obedience of his *Catholique* Majesty, did also weaken the *Spanish* Monarchy (their great Enemy) and by that Means made their way to a Peace.

They Equipp every year for this Voyage Twelve, fair Ships; from Eight hundred, to Fourteen hundred Tun, which depart at several Seasons; and every year precisely at the End of June, there Return as many, or thereabouts. The Company, and the *States* usually in the Month of May send out their Men of Warr to meet them, Partly as a *Contay*, and to defend them against their Enemies, and partly to relieve them with Fresh Men, and other Necessaries, as they have occasion. The Principal Place, which this Company has in the *Indies* is Called *Batavia*, a Town, that they have built (in the Ilaad of *Java Major*, not far from *Symatry*, they have there their *Magazines*, and Stores of all the Commodities; which they bring into *Europe*, from the several Countries of the *Indies*, of *Japan*, of *China*, and of Other Kingdomes. They have also *Colombo* in the Isle of *Ceylon*, which they have lately taken from the *Portuguez* (This Island furnishes the whole World with *Cinnamon*.) In Fine, they possesse diverse other

Places, even from the *Gulph of Persia*, to the Extremity of *China*, and they have Reckoned a good while since, *Seaven and Thirty Magazines*, and *Twenty Considerable Forts*, which they had in the *Indies*.

For the Greater Advantage and Liberty of their Commerce, they have their *Agents* about all the Kings of those Quarters, as the King of *Persia*, the *Great Mogol*, the Kings of *China*, *Japan*, *Cochinchine*, and diverse Others. See now to what degree of Greatnesse this Company is Arrived: a Society of Particular Merchants, Low enough at First, both in Fortune, and every way Else; but now Advanced, not only beyond their Hopes, but their very Pretences.

but there is not any thing which a Company, of this Condition, by *Union*, *Conduet* and *Courage* may not accomplish. This Truth being so clear, and the same Advantages now offered us, shall we not make use of them? Or shall we rather acknowledge to the World, that we want *Unisie*, *Addresse*, or *Courage*? The *Last* is a Reproach, which our very Enemies will never fasten upon us; Nor with any Colour of Reason will it be pretended, that we want *Addresse*. For (to speak in this Place only of *Navigations*) It is certain, that better Seamen cannot be desired then ours are, and the *Hollanders* know That well enough, who make use of the *French* more then of any other Nation, and finde themselves better Served with *Them*, then with their *Own*. As to the Point of *Union* (not to dissemble the Matter) without doubt, we are there too blame, and 'tis a fault of our Nation, which Certainly deserves our greatest Care to Redresse. To say the Truth, What a Shame is it, that the *French*; the People of all the World the most accomplish'd, a Nation with whom

whom *Valour*, *Magnificence*, *Good Nature*, *Civilitie*, *Learning*, the *Liberal Arts* seem in a Manner, to have chosen their Abode. That *These People*, I say, should be so hardly brought to endure One Another; that *their Societies* should be so unconstant, their Agreement so difficult; that the most hopefull Affairs in the World should perish even in their Hands, by I know not what Fatality of this *Lightnesse*; without which discord among themselves, it were almost impossible to resist them.

When the *Hollanders* began their Company, how many were there even of an Ordinary Condition, that sold themselves to their very Household-Stuffe for the furnishing of a *Stock* to begin withall; because of the Honour, and Benefit which they forefaw, would accrue to their Country. And shall the *French* having so many other Excellent Qualities faile at Last in so Material a Point, as to be wanting in their Zeale, and duty to the Glory, and Well-being of the *Publique*. I dare promise my self This will never be; and since we are now in an Age of *Wonders*, that must give Remedies to all our Evills, and Renew our whole Frame: Let us not leave the least Mark of that Antient Blemish; but by a Constant Kindnesse among our Selves, and a true and dutifull Love of our Country give the World to know; that our Great, and Incomparable Prince has Influenced his People, and Inspired them with a Virtue, which they never had before.

But what shall we doe then? will some say? Our Businesse in the first Place, must be (as is already said) to Compose a Society of diverse Persons, that will unanimously Contribute to the Execution of our design; which Society shall carry the Name of T H E

FRENCH COMPANY for the COM-
MERCE of the EAST-INDIES.

Our next Work must be to Equip a Fleet, and to go directly, and make a Descent upon our Island of *Madagascar*, which we may do without any Resistance, and begin there with a Considerable Establishment, which from time to time shall be supported, and maintained by strong *Colonies*.

We must then resolve to carry thither, only men of Honesty and Courage, not Criminals redeemed from the Gibbet, or the Galleys, nor Women condemned for Debauchery or Lewdnesse. Part of these People shall be Employed in Tilling the Ground; (which will be a matter of exceeding Benefit) while the Rest shall be making themselves Masters of the Principall Posts of the Country, and securing of Ports, whereof there are diverse in This Island, capable of Two or Three Hundred Vessels, to Ride without danger. Thus much for the *Preliminaries* of our great Commerce.

I know very well, that this Proposition will not please all People, and some will tell you perhaps, that the *French* have been at *Madagascar* already; and *What did they there?* They will tell you too, that Monsieur *Flacourt* (who was the Director of the Company, that was then made,) has sufficiently manifested the Vanity of This Project, in a Relation that he has published upon This Subject. Well! But are we now to learn, that a Businesse, that has Miscarried at One time, may succeed at Another? How many great Enterprizes, do we finde in Story, that have Required several Tryalls to bring them to Perfection. The *First Spaniards*, that Planted in the *Isles of America*,

rica, were all slain ; and yet this disaster did not discourage the Undertakers from sending more. The English Colonies in *Virginia* have been Four or Five times destroyed ; and yet This has not made them Abandon the Country. To come once again to the Example of the *Hollanders*. The First step, they set toward their *Indian Adventure* (endeavouring to find out a new Passage) was most unfortunate to them. The Second time ; tis true, they got thither ; but they made Nothing of their Voyage. Did they give it over for That ? No, by no means. They returned a Third, a Fourth time, and at last gathered with Interest the Fruits of their Perseverance. But This is not all neither ; for the World must know, that there is a large difference, betwixt the Busines of *Monsieur Flacourt*, and That which is *Now* in Question. A Large Difference, betwixt a Company Composed of a Small Number of *Private Persons*, and that wanted Stock for the Accomplishment of so great a designe, and the *Company*, which is *Now* in Proposal to be Erected. For after all ; we are not without hope, that the *King* himself, (who has so great an Affection, and Tenderness for his People) Considering the Notable Benefits, which this Enterprize will bring to his Deminions, will *Himself* I say, lend his Royall Support, and rather then fayle, even Enter into a *Participation* in the Designe : So that the Consequence betwixt *Monsieur Flacourts Affaire* ; and This at present, holds no Proportion. And This must be acknowledged too ; that (the Misfortune notwithstanding, into which he was cast, by the Fault of the *Company*) he has been ever known to say ; Nay, and Publiquely to *Declare*, and *Print* at the End of his Relation before Mentioned,

that

that a Considerable Settlement in *Madagascar* (which must be Vigorously begun, and Watchfully pursued,) would bring an Advantage to the State of *France* beyond Imagination: Considering the Goodness, and Fertility of the *Country*, the Gentle, and Industrious disposition of the *People*, and the Commodious Situation of the *Island* for the Entertainment of *Commerce*. And This which we deliver is Supported by the Agreeing Testimony of so many Nations, newly come from Thence; as *Flemmins French, Hollanders, English*; that to dispute the Point, were to offer violence to Truth it self. *Monseur Flacourt* did not so much as wish for More, then One Lusty Ship to be sent every Year from *France* to *Madagascar*, to carry on the Designe. What are we to expect then, that propose no less then *Fourteen or Fifteen*, at a Blow? The Transporting of *Five Hundred Men* thither was the very utmost or *His Desire*, but we speak of Carrying as many *Thousands*. The Disbursment of a *Hundred and Fifty Thousand Livres* upon an *Equipage*, was a Summe that He had not the Confidence so much as to propose; but we have in our Prospect, the Expence of many *Millions*. In a Word, *His Reasonings* were proportioned, to the Abilities of a *Company of Private Persons*; but we speak of Erecting a *Company*, whereof 'tis possible, that his *Majesty Himself* will not disdain to be a *Member*; and by his *Royall Participation*, Influence it with a Certain Character, peculiar to the Dignity of such a *Constitution*. So that the Odds betwixt *Our Modell*, and *His* is Evident, and that we shall be able to carry our Busines higher, then ever he could have raised his Imagination. But let That go as it will; of the *Isle of Madagascar* a *Man* may safely say, that

that with a very little Care to Fortifie there, we may have not onely one Place, but many, and those of greater Value, then all that the *Hollanders* can pretend to be Masters of in the *Indies*; take it either in regard of the *Place* it Self, or the Convenience of *Traffique*. Surely it cannot be denied to be Incomparably more *Commodious*, and *Safe*, then *Batavia* in the *Isle* of *Java*, where the *Hollanders* have pitcht their *Principall Residence*. More *Commodious* doubtlesse it is, as being in a *Gentle Climate*, and having within it self whatsoever may honestly serve either to the *Pleasures*, or *Necessities* of humane Life. Whereas on the *Contrary*, there is scarce any thing to be gotten about *Batavia*; but the *Company* is faine to fetch from afar off the very *Rice*, *Meat*, and *Necessary Provisions* for *Five* and *Twenty*, or *Thirty Thousand* Persons, to their great *Trouble*, and *Expence*. And then *Madagascar* is Certainly a *Safer Place*; for the *Natives* of *Java* are a *Brutal*, *Bold*, *Warlike*, and *Stubborn People*: By Profession *Mahometan*, and consequently *Haters*, and *Despisers* of *Christians*. The *Hollanders* have for their *Neighbour*, on the *One* side the *King* of *Mataran*, a *Prince*, that shews himself now and then at their very *Gates* with a *Hundred Thousand Men*. On the *Other* side they have the *Peop'e* of *Bantam* (a matter of *Twelve Leagues* from *Batavia*) who have often done the same as the *King* of *Mataran*. Whereas the *Inhabitants* of *Madagascar*, on the *Contrary*, are of a *Meek* and *Quiet humour*, discovering withall a *Singular Inclination* to receive the *Gospel*. So that one is more secure with a *Hundred Men* in *Madagascar*, then with above a *Thousand* in *Java*. But This is not all yet, that the *Place* is more *Delightful* and *Secure*; but it lyes much better also for

Traffique: for I cannot but take Notice of another Inconvenience, which the *Hollanders* suffer, in having their General *Magazin* at *Batavia*. It lies so far up in the Indies, that it makes their Voyages long and dangerous, and a great part of them to no purpose. When you have brought them within view of *Madagascar*, they have still a *Third Part* of their Way further to *Batavia*. And when they are *There*, they must come back again the same way they went, and with the same Windes, that would carry them into *Europe*; onely to *Traffique* in the *Gulf of Bengal*, upon the Coasts of *Corromandel*, and *Malabar*, at *Ceylon*, *Surat*, in the *Persian Gulf*, and upon the Coasts of *Ethiopia*; and after all This, they must back again with their Merchandize for *Batavia*, and there at Last they make their *Cargasons* for *Holland*. So that the very *Situation* of the Place gives them the Trouble of passing the same way Two or Three times over, whereas by Planting our Principal *Magazin* at *Madagascar*, all this doubling would be saved: For being *There* once, let us go which way we will, either toward the *Red-Sea*, the *Gulph of Bengal*, *China*, *Japan*, or the most Remote *Islands*, we are never out of our way; but when we shall have made our Markets, and Carried our Commodities to *Madagascar*, every hour of our Passage will have brought us so much nearer Home. So that we shall have nothing to Stop us, but foul Weather; None of this *back, and forward*, this *Turning*, and *Crossing*, to make the way tedious. Take This along with you too, that when you are once at *Madagascar*, you are upon as good a Breathing-Place as you would wish, with all Conveniences about you, to refresh your Men, and follow your Course at Pleasure: Whereas the *Hollanders*,

vers, after they are once under way from Batavia, meet with no such Relief betwixt That, and Home: (commonly a Seaven-Months Voyage) for want of which, they are so miserably Harrassed with the Journey, that a long time it takes them to recover it. And there remains yet another Inconvenience; (from which We are Exempt) that is; When they are come into *Our Seas*, they dare not passe the *Channell*, for fear of the *English*, with whom they are at Variance, upon the very point of the *Indian-Trade*; but away they go on still to the *Northward*, and so about *Ireland*, and *Scotland* (a Matter of *Four or Five Hundred Leagues Compass*) to fall at *Last* into their Own Country by the way of the *German Ocean* (which is the true reason of the *Companies* allowing an *Augmentation of Three Months Pay*, to all the Officers and Seamen (upon this Voyage) above their ordinary *Wages*.) So that they have both Extremities of Heat and Cold to Encounter in their Return. And we are now to presume, that the *Company* puts upon Accompt all these Rubbs, and Stopps in the way, which make the Navigation both more Hazzardous, and Expensive, and Rate their Commodities accordingly. This is enough said, I suppose to prove the *Situation* of *Madagascar* better then that of *Java*, and Consequently, that the Matter in hand is worth our Care.

To Instance now in our *Own Nation*, the *French* make no difficulty at all to adventure upon the *American Isles*, as *St. Christopher*, *Martinique*, *Guadalupe*, and Others (where there are at least *Thirty Thousand Persons*) and yet these are Places, where there is no Living without Succour from *A broad*; and if the *English*, and *Hollanders* with whom they *Traffique*,

should not supply them with *Bread, Wine & Victualls*; nay and with *Slaves* too, to order their Grounds, they were not able to subsist Two Years to an End without Extream Misery; which would enforce them at last to quit their Hold. From hence it proceeds, that the *English* and *Hollanders* get away all their *Sugar, Tobacco* and *Indigo*, with which they furnish us afterward, at a dear Rate; so that the *French* are they that reap the least Benefit of their own Labours. Taking This for Granted, what can be clearer, then that we are under a *Grosse*, and most unreasonable Prejudice, in rather Chusing to send out *Colonies* into Places, Subjected to such *Inconveniences*, then to Plant a Large and Fruitfull *Island*, fitted with all advantages, both for *Plenty, Pleasure, and Commerce*: And all This, because *Monsieur Flacourt* failed in the busynesse; Because a matter of *a Hundred, or Six Score Men* Miscarryed in it. (Even by the fault of the very Company, it self) These People should do well to observe, that we are now upon another manner of design, upon an Enterprize not unworthy of that great Prince, who will have the Goodnesse to make Himself of the Party.

I must expect now to be Questioned, by what *Autho-
rity* I talke at this Rate, and who made me an *Under-
taker*? Truly, I shall not take upon me beyond my *Com-
mission*; but I think it may be very fairly presumed, that so accomplished a Prince, as his *Christian Majesty*, will never refuse to *Comfort, and Protect his People* in an *Affair* of this Weight; or ever fall short of That Affection, which the Kings of *England* have constantly Manifested toward their Subjects upon the like Occasion. A Man may say indeed, that His Majesties daily *Acts* are a *Security* to the Contrary; and he that shall consider

consider, that since the Year, 1658. the King has
Struck off Twenty Millions a Year in Taxes, and since
That, brought, down the Price of Salt : How that in
the Scarcity of, 1661. (which threatned us with an
Inevitable Famine) he did out of his Proper Coffers
provide for the Importation of Prodigious Quantities
of Grain, to relieve the Necessities of his People, (and
particularly of *Paris*, where the Number made the E-
vill the more dangerous. He I say, that shall duly
Consider, what we have both seen, and tasted of this
Kinde, will never doubt of His Majesties Propension
to further the Advancement of This *Company* to all
purposes Imaginable.

If there were nothing else of Inducement in the
Thing, it would be sufficient alone to prevaile upon his
Majestie to see, that the Establishment of this Great, and
Noble *Commerce*, by opening an Honest and Certain
Way of Livelyhood to the whole *French Nation* for the
Future, would insensibly wear out, and banish all
those other Ignoble, and shifting wayes of Living,
which in Our dayes have been but too much in Pra-
ctice, and Credit. That this happy Abundance would
bring us again to a Sincerity in our dealings, and put
out of Countenance that *Trade of Wrangling*, which the
Insatiable Greedinesse of a Lazy sort of Men has ray-
sed to the Highest degree of Iniquity. That it will be
a sure way of *Employment* for those that languish for
want of *Businesse*, whose Industry is as good as Lost,
when it is not Exercised. And in conclusion, that it
will be an Indubitable *Relief* to a World of Poor;
who have at present no other Choyce, then either a
shamefull Beggary : or some Criminal Course to de-
liver themselves from it. So that since the Thing in-

Question, has no lesse an Influence upon the Interest, and Honour of the State, then upon the Profit of Particular Persons: We may be confident of his Majesties Royall Favour and Assistance toward the Accomplishment of so Glorious, and Beneficial a Work.

To come to the Point then, there must be first a Fond, or Stock, of Six Millions to be laid out upon the Equipage of Twelve, or Fourteen faire Ships, of Burden, from Eight Hundred, to Fourteen Hundred Tunn for the Convenience of passing such a Number of Persons into our Isle of Madagascar, as may take Possession of it in a handsome Fashion.

I would here propose that His Majesty might be humbly besought, to put in for a Tenth part, and I persuade my self it might be readily Obeyned.

I am further Assured, that there are diverse Persons of Eminent Condition in this Kingdome, that would be willing to Venture Considerable Summs upon This Bottome, in Case the Merchants, who shall first Associate toward this Constitution, shall think it Convenient. And in this Case, I reckon upon Three Millions, as good as Rayfed; so that we are Advanced the One Half already. And for the Other Moyety, I would Recommend it to all Merchants, Burgers of Towns, and in a more Especiall manner to all that love the Honour of their Country, and desire the Laudable Advancement of their Proper Fortunes, to bethink themselves seriously of the Businesse, and to make their Zeal as Remarquable to the Present Age, as the Reward of it will Render them in their Generations to Posterity.

For

For their further encouragement, I have great Reason to believe, that his Ma^{esty} after his Engagement for a *Tenth* in the first Expedition, will be prevailed with to furnish more for the *Second, Third, and Fourth*, if it shall be thought needfull.

His Majesty may be also supplicated to remit to this Company, the *One Half* of his Rights of *Entry* and *Customs*, throughout all *France*, for all *Indian Commodities Imported thither.*

In fine, upon a strong presumption, that the King will shew himself in this, as in all other Cases; the *Father of His People* I flatter my self with a strange hope, that his Majesty may be perswaded to take upon Himself, the *Risque* of the First *Eight or Ten Years*; which if it comes to passe, let the world Judge by that signal Engagement, how his Majesty stands Affected to this Affair, and whether the Opinion, which I have entertained concerning it, be not somewhat more then the Vision of a man, that dreams waking.

As for *Private Persons*, they shall have Liberty to Interest themselves in the *Company* for what summe they please, till the *Stock* shall be *Compleat*; after which no more shall be Admitted: And for the spee-dier Raising of the sum, His Majesty shall be desired, that *Strangers* (as to that Particular) may have the same Freedome with *French-men* themselves: by virtue whereof they shall stand *Naturalized*, without need of any other *Grace*; Provided that their Engagement exceed the sum of *Ten Thousand Livres*, in Consideration of which Interest, their *Kindred* although *Strangers* shall be qualified to inherit their Estates. And for further Security, His Majesty must be desired to Grant,

that

that in case of any *Rupture* betwixt *This Crown* and the *States*, whereof such *Strangers* shall be *Subjects*, their *Goods* shall not thereupon be *Seized* or *Confiscated*, in *Consequence* of the *War*.

This *Company* shall then have its *Directors*; and to take away all *jealousie* from the *Negotiants* of being one *Oppressed* by Another; these *Directors* shall be chosen out of the *Body* of the *MERCHANTS* onely, and the *whole Stock* put into the *Hands* of *One Person* to be *named* on their *Part*. And for the greater *Encouragement* of *Strangers*, and in *Testimony* of the *Trust*, that shall be *reposed* in them, they shall be declared *Capable* of being *Heads* and *Directors* of the *Company*; *Provided*, that they bring in an *Interest Correspondent* thereunto, and *settled* in *France* with their *Families*.

The *King* must be supplicated again to permit, that the *Cause*s of the *Company* may in the *First Place* be brought before the next *Consular Justice*, and by *Appeal* to the *Parliament*.

In fine, every *man* shall be free to *Offer* his *Advice* for the *Good* of the *Company*: or, for the *Security* of any of the *Persons* therein concerned; and his *Opinion* shall be received with *Respect*, and followed so far, as sha'l be found *Expedient*. I have now delivered my thoughts upon *This Subject*, which have not been hitherto *unacceptable* where ever I have *imparted* them.

But *Feare* and *Distrust* (those *Two* *Ignoble Passions*, and the *Enemies* of all *great Undertakings*,) will perhap. have the *Power* to work upon some *easy Natures*, by their *ill grounded* and *mistaken Reasons*; which (such as they are) we shall frankly lay open, for the *service* of *Those* who otherwise might possibly suffer *themselves* to be *surprized*. The

The First Objection is drawn from the Ordinary Uncertainty of Events, which is the great Common-Place of such as want Resolution, who will tell you, that *A Man can have no Assurance, that this New Navigation, will ever come to what we Imagine*: That *Our Neighbours being already in Possession of the Indian Commerce, where they are powerfully Settled, and Rooted in Familiarities with the Natives, with whom they Trade, it will be a hard master to bring them over to us*: And that in fine, *being before-hand'd, and having great Magazines, and Stores, they will appoint their Factors perchance to beat down the Market, and under-sell us*: So that we shall be quickly Reduced either to *throw off all; or Trade to Loss*. All this is easily answer'd, and we will do it in Order.

As to the First Objection, I reckon, that it can never Enter into the thought of a Man of Courage, Have our Neighbours prospered in This Navigation, even beyond their Hopes, and is it a Reasonable Question to aske, whether *We* shall succeed, or *No*? It is without dispute, a point of false Prudence to doubt it. How seldome is this same froward Wisdome in the Right! which requires more Certainty, then the thing will bear; that wou'd have the *Future in Hand*, and cannot content it self, with a well-Grounded Probability. This was it, that made so many of the Christian Princes to reject the Proposition of the Famous Columbus (of which notwithstanding, they saw afterwards, the Effects to their Amazement (the first that boggled at the design, being the Genoese) He discoursed the Business to the King of *Portugal*; but he had as good have said nothing: And to as little Purpose was the Project broken to the King of *England*; and to the *French King* too: (as some say) and the Favourable Audience, that

He had of *Ferdinand*, and *Isabel*, would have signified just as much as the Rest, if a *Private Man* had not borne the Charge of his *First Expedition*, by the Advance of *Sixteen thousand Gold Ductars*, that were Employed upon it. The King of *Spain* has the same Obligation also, for the Discovery of *Peru* to *Three Private Persons*, that joyned in the Design, which passed a while for an *Extravagant folly*, till the Event made it appear to be an *Act of Profound Wisdom*. In the mean time, the difference we here speak of, was not without some plausible Appearance of Reason: the Thing being as then in doubt; but with us 'tis another Case. The *Gain* is *Certain*, and the good *Fortune* which others have had there already, tells us what we our Selves are now to expect. In one word, if our design miscarry, 'tis our own Fault, and we cannot say, that the Execution of it is not in our own Hands, without Offence to *Truth*, and *Honesty* at once.

As to the *Second Objection*, which concerns the *Vent* of our *Merchandise*; the *Conceit* is Idle: for First, the *Company* may be sure of *France*; because (as we have proved already) They may afford their *Commodities* at *Ten or Twelve in the Hundred*, better *Cheap* than the *Hollanders*, (Which rises to more, than a Man would Imagine, till he comes to *Compute*, that *France* alone consumes at least a *Third Part* of what is brought out of *India*.) But besides, it will not enter into my understanding, why *Strangers* should not as soon buy of *us*, as of our *Neighbours*; Especially, when their *Interest* leads them to it; *France* being placed in the very *Heart* of *Europe*, and *Accessible* on every side. I shall say more, which is, that since *Strangers* are already under an *Obligation* of dealing with *us*, for

Four Principal Commodities, which we have in Excellence (and which an *Italian* of great Authority, calls the *Four Load-Stones*, that draw other Nations to us) That is to say, **C O R N**, **W I N E**, **S A L T**, and **H E M P**; there is no doubt, but they that Traffique with us for these Things, would be very well content to take off our *Indian* Merchandize, as far as they have Occasion for it, all under One. Which would be very much for the Merchants Ease to furnish himself with whatsoever he can desire, at one, and the same Market. So that it is Rational to believe, not onely that our *Indian* Merchandize will not be left upon our Hands; but that we shall have a Quicker Sale for it, then other People; and by this Means Recover the great Traffique, which *France* had of Old before the *Portuguez* found out the Navigation of the *East-Indies*; for in those dayes, all the *Persian*, and *Indian* Merchandize was brought by *Land* into *Egypt*, from *Thence* by *Sea* to *Marseilles*; and *There* Distributed. In Consequence hereof, it is not unlikely that our *Neighbours* whose best *Card* is their *Commerce*, will try all the wayes in the World to *Croft w.* And this is the Foundation of the *Third Objection*.

In truth it may very well be, and that they will not stick even to pick their own Pockets, rather then we shall fill ours, and shew us a Thousand Tricks, to make us sick of our Business. It is possible, that for a while they will be content to set their Merchandize at an under Rate, to *Loose* a Little at present, to get the more hereafter, and trifle away a Million or Two upon the Experiment. But how long will this *Frolick* hold; or can any man Imagine, that to do us a *Mischief*, they will resolve absolutely to *ruinc Themselves*? Af-

ter all, The Consideration how far they would expose themselves upon this design to divert and discourage us, serveth onely to Confirm me in my First opinion of it. They are not a People to do great things to no Purpose, nor would they throw away so much Treasure now, but in Order to the Conservation of their Future Interest. Again; They would not stickle so hard for a small Matter, and the very Industry they use to hinder our Commerce, proves the Benefit Considerable, if we carry it. So that this Objection is so far from moving us to relinquish our Enterprize, that on the other side it rayles both our Hopes, and Resolutions to go thorough with it. To say all in a word, if so great a Blessing does attend us, as his Majesties Consent, that all the Loss, which shall befall the Company, for the first Eight or Ten years may be made good upon the Stock which His Majestie shall vouchsafe to venture in the design. What have we then to fear; Can it be, that a Party of *Private Merchants* (for such are our Neighbours Companies) shall have the Power to sink a design, which *One of the Greatest Princes of the World* has a mind to support? A Prince, who by the Admirable *order* of his *Conduct*; the *Just Administration* of his *Revenue*, and by his fatherly *Goodness* toward his *People*, has put himself into a Condition, to undertake without *Fear*, whatsoever may be put in Execution with *Honour*, and *Justice*. No, No, Our Neighbours are too wise to make so dangerous an Experiment! Let us say rather, that they shall see us take part of their *Commerce*, either with pleasure, as their *Principal Allyes*; or however without having it in their Power to harm us.

The Second Scruple objected by some Particulars arises

siles from the Consideration of certain unhappy Effects of our past Troubles. The Prodigious Expences, which the King was at, while he was forced to maintain a War in all the parts of Europe; (which has now brought us however to the most Glorious Constitution, that the State of France ever enjoyed) Those Expences I say, having obliged His Majesty to call for Supplies of mony now and then from his People, have left in them certain dark Imaginations and Jealousies, that the Stock of the Company being a Publique Treasure; upon the Kings next occasion, his Majesty might perchance seize it as his Own. So that it would be a madnes for Private Persons to venture their Fortunes in a Bottome, which the King may make himself Master of at Pleasure. But these are weak Heads God knows; and that they say, is certainly unworthy, both of the Prosperity of Our Affairs, and the Magnanimity of our Prince.

The King, they say, may perchance lay hand upon the Companies Stock, because 'tis Publique Mony. But I say, that the King will never do it for that very Reason, His Majesty has heretofore had great Warrs upon his hands; his Treasury drayned, and his Finances mis-menaged; to the great dissatisfaction of his People: but in the middle of this Pressing Necessity can any man say, that the King ever Fingered any of the Publique Mony: was his Majesty ever known to Order the Receiver of Consignations to Empty his Coffers in the hands of his Treasurers? Never had any Creature such a thought. For the Publique Treasure is a kind of Sacred Trust, and it were a sort of Sacrilege to abuse it. Why should any man suspect the King can-

able of so prophanre a violence ? And that he should take That *now* too, when his Coffers are full, which in his greatest Wants, he ever made a Conscience to meddle with ? But it will be said again, that the world is uncertain, and all that is in it, and that the greatest Felicity imaginable cannot warrant it self from Misfortune. This is true, and I think no man will dispute the Humour and Caprice of Fortune ; but let us judge of things by probability (if not, by somewhat more substantial.) We see, that most of our Neighbours have their hands full at home ; Others are weak, and those, whom we have found formerly most to be feared, are now well enough satisfied to be at peace with us. Let us consider on the other hand, the Power of our Prince, and the unmoveable Foundations of that Power. In his *Menage of Affairs of State*, his Majesty is *Affidious*, and *Indefatigable*. As to the Ordering of his *Finances*, he looks after it *Himself*, and understands the whole *Business* of his *Revenue*, no man better. If we turn our thoughts now toward those *Blessings*, which Heaven has shewred upon his Royal Person, that *Clearnes of Wit*, *Solidity of Judgment*, *Vigour of Body*, *Health*, *Youth* ; We have Reason to believe, (if we may believe any thing in this *World*) that our good Fortune will be long-lived, and that God will reward his Royal Piety, and Justice, with a Reign as *Lasting*, as *Happy*, and not refuse to his *Christian Majesty* a Grace, which Heaven has sometime bestowed even upon *Pagan Princes*, and Conferred upon the Reign of *Augustus*. Away then with this Lewd distrust, that Embitters all our delights, and troubles our Heads, with the Apprehension

sion of Evils which are never likely to concern us. Let it never be Imagined, that a Prince so Generous and Just, after the Solemn Establishment of a Company, under the Seal of his Authority, can ever have the thought to invade the Estates of Private Persons, putting themselfes under his Protection, and by so foul a violence to blast the Glory of his Unspotted Reputation. In a Word, let not any man think, that his Majesties flourishing Condition can ever be Reduced to stand in need of so hateful an *Expedient*, and after that, so *Unprofitable*. For in fine, (to leave this Opinion nothing to say for it self) I dare affirm, that if the King both wanted Mony, and had a mind to seize it, the Estate of the Company would be yet secure. For let us look into *Holland*, and we shall find wherein the wealth of these Companies Consists. 'Tis true, they have a world of Merchandise Disposed of up and down in their *Magazines*, both in *India*, and *Europe*, they have their *Shipping*, their *Canon*, and their necessary *Equipages*; but for Mony, alas, 'tis the least part of their Riches; and indeed their Cash compared with the Rest, is scarce Considerable. Now I pray you tell me, Were it not a pleasant Project for a King of *France* that had need of Mony, to make seizure of all these Commodities, and that at Three or Four Hundred Leagues distance, for the great Part. Put Case, that he were to raise an *Army* to prevent an *Invasion*, and wanted Mony upon that Pinch; or to pay off some *Mutinous Troups*; Were it not a ready way think ye to send a Matter of a Hundred, or Six-score Wagons to the House of the *Indian Company* for so many Load of *Cinamome*, and *Nutmegs*? do Princes use to pay their *Souldiers*, with Baggs of *Pepper*, and *Cloves*?

Cloves? No ! no, In such Cases, This will never do their Business. In a State of *Warr* there must be *Money* in *Kind*, and not That, which makes Mony in a time of *Peace*. Wherefore since the Estates of this *Company*, will not lye in *Cash*, which is the only Thing, that Princes at some times may have Occasion for : It is manifest that this *Apprehension* of the *Authority-Royall* is nothing else, but a *Chimera* set up, to oppose the growing Prosperity of this Nation.

There is Another sort of People, yet more unreasonabile ; But we shall answer them with the Rest, and they'll tell ye, (taking every thing at worst) that we are not sure to be alwayes at *Peace* with our Neighbours, and if there should happen a *Warr*, how much the *Companies Shipping* would be exposed to the *Enemy*, for they make a great *Question*, whether the State of *France*, would ever concern themselves so far in the *Quarrel*, as their *Neighbours* do upon the like occasion: For, say they, *Traffique* being the *Chief*, and almost the *Onely Support* of our *Neighbours*, it is their *Interest* to maintain their *Commerce* with their *Lives* and *Fortunes*: Whereas *France*, that lives upon it self, and has within it self so sure a Bottom of Strength, and Subsistence, will not think it self much the Poorer, for the *Loss* of a *Merchants Fleet*. So that the Kings business will be to secure his *Frontiers*, and look to his *Garrisons*, without charging himself with *Armado's* to protect *Us* in our *Trade*. Sure these People do not heed what they say, for they confute themselves with their own Objections. Do they confess, that our *Neighbours*, in a Country, not so good as *France*, have yet kept up *Their Trading* against all *Opposers* ; and do they now *Question* whether his *Magistic* will uphold *Us* in *Ours*? What colour have

have they for a Perswasion, that the stronger should not do that now, which they themselves acknowledge to have been done already by the Weaker? *Not that they make any doubt of the Kings Power, they'll tell ye; but perhaps there will not be so much Care taken as might be.* They are Ignorant then it seems, or would be thought so, of what his Majesty dos every day. I do not speak of his Universal Vigilance over all his Dominions; but of the special care he takes for the Protecting of his People in a *Forreign Trade*. They do not know, I perceive, that it costs the King at least *Four Millions a Year*, to entertain a *Liberty of Ordinary Commerce*, both in the *East and Western Ocean*. And that it is upon this Accompt, that his Majesty is now at the Charge of a *Navy Royall*, to suppresse the *Corsares of Algiers*: That it is, for this very End, that he Entertains another *Squadron*, to defend our Merchants from the *Pirates of Gallicia*. They are strangers doubtlesse to all these things, without which, it were not possible they should fall foule upon so grosse a Mistake. Is it not known, that his Majesty does all This, for the support of a very *Ordinary Traffique*, and can any man Imagine, that he will doe lesse for the Maintenance of so much a greater, and more *Honourable Commerce*? No man can perswade himselfe, that the King would refuse the same Countenance and Assistance to the Interest of a *Company*, wherein the whole *State* is Concerned, which at this very day his Ma esty is pleased to allow in Favour of *Particular Merchants*. We have seen in times of Warr, what Peyns has been taken for the Providing of our Frontiers; and a Battail fought sometimes, onely to hinder the taking of a small Town, or to secure a Passe upon a River. Much more then

will his Majesty provide for the safety of a Fleet, that has the Prayers and Wishes of all France engaged in the Venture. In a Word, if Interest and Honour be the most Powerfull Motives of Humane Resolutions; and the Two Poles upon which are turned the Affaires of Princes, as well as of Private Persons, there can be no Question, but the King will Employ his Power upon all occasions to preserve the Company from danger. For, that it is his Majesties Interest so to do, is clear; not only in regard of his Part in the Stock of the Company; but by reason of the Infinite Number of Merchandizes, and Merchants, that this Traffique will draw into the Kingdome, to the great Advantage of the Revenue of his Majesties Farms, and Customes. So that a man may rationally compute, that *The Profit of this Commerce, when it shall be once Established, will be better to the King, than the Two best Provinces in his Kingdome.* Nor is it lesse manifest that his Majesty is Engaged in Honour, then in Interest; since without dispute, it is a point of Honour for a Prince not to suffer his People, to be Crusht in a Designe undertaken by his own Allowance, and Authority. So that to ask, if the King will vigorously maintain us both in Peace, and War, having so many Considerations to engage him to it, would be but a kinde of senselasse; and unmannerly Question. If Necessity, which many times forces great Actions from mean Persons has been able to produce those faire Resolutions, which we admire in our Neighbours: How much more shall the true Love of Glory and Justice operate upon the Soules of Princes. The first are carried on by a kinde of Violence: The other govern their Actions by Choice and Reason. Those at the best, are but wise enough to avoid mischieves,

chieves ; but these are the Ordinary Instruments of our greatest Good. Let us trouble our selves no further then about our Fleets ; since they are under the Care of One of the best Princes of the Universe : and that Miraculous Power , which subjects all other Powers to it self , and attends him where ever he goes, shall Influence our new Navigators, and protect them both against Enemies , and Storms. Neither let it be thought, that the Conquest which we shall make in his Name , will be lesse his Majesties Care , then his other Possessions : or that he will ever endure to have his Lillies torn up , where ever they shall have taken Root. There is a Certain invisible Chain that Lincks together the severall Parts of the World , though never so Remote, when they belong to the same Master: So that 'tis not posisble to shake the One, without Violence to the Other. It is then upon the Resolution and Power of his Majesty , that we may Confidently repose for the Issue of this Enterprize , which beginning upon a time, when this *Great Monarch* is in Effect, the *Arbitrator* of all *Europe* ; when all Princes make it their Businesse to preserve his Friendship , and avoid his displeasure. What Question is to be made ; but that the Reputation of his Greatnesse will carry Good Fortune and Successe to our *Colonies* ?

Joyn your selves then my Masters, Joyn your selves my Generous Countrymen in the purfuit of a Glorious Discovery , which has onely been kept from you thus long , by our past disorders. A Discovery that shall lead you to Advantages not to be numbred, and which shall yet grow in the Hands of your Posterity. A Discovery in fine, that shall carry the Fame and Terror of Your Armes into those Quarters of the World,

where the *French* Nation it self was never heard of. No more therefore of these Reproachfull Jealousies, which are so unworthy of your ordinary Courage and Virtue: but go on boldly under the Banner of the *Invincible LEWIS*, and be assured, that as the Awe, and Reverence, which his Glorious Name Imprints upon Other Nations, leaves you Nothing to feare from *Strangers*: So from *Himself*, you are certain to receive all the Comforts of his *Goodness, Munificence and Protection.*

ARTICLES



Articles, and Conditions,

Whereupon the Trading Merchants
of this Kingdome do most humbly be-
seech his Majesty to grant them his
Declaration, and the Graces there-
in contained, for the Establishment
of a Company for the Commerce
of the East-Indies.

PARIS. 1664.

I.

First, that his Majesties Subjects of what
Quality or Condition soever shall be Ta-
ken into the Company for what Summes
they please, without Losse either of No-
bility, or Prizilege, his Majesty granting
them in that Particular his Royal Dispensation: Provi-
ded, that under a Thousand Livres no Share shall be

Allowed.

G 3 Admitted:

Admitted: nor any *Augmentations*, under *Five Hundred*; for the Ease of *Accompts, Divisions, and Sales of Actions*; A *Third Part* whereof shall be paid down presently, and go to the Furnishing of the *First Expedition*; and the *Two other Thirds* within *Two years after*, by equal Portions, under pain of losing what is already Advanced, to *any man* that shall fail of paying in his full proportion within the said time: the money so forfeited remaining to the Benefit, and Stock of the *Company*.

Article M. Chapter I. Section V.

Allowed. That all *Strangers* (be they the Subjects of what Prince or State soever) shall have free Admittance into the said *Company*; and such of them as shall have *Ten Thousand Livres* in the Stock, shall be reputed as *Natives* without any further need of *Naturalizing*; by which means their *Kindred* though *Strangers* too, shall have a right of *Inheritance* to what Estates they shall be possessed of in this *Kingdome*.

I. I. I.

Allowed. That no Part or Portion belonging to any *Particulars* in the said *Company* of what Nation soever, shall be either *Siz'd* by the King, or *Confiscated* to his Profit; even although they be the Subjects of some Prince or State in open *Hostility* against his Majesty.

I. V.

Allowed. That the *Directors* of the said *Company* shall not be mole-

molested, either in their *Persons*, or *Estates*, for or concerning the Affairs of the said *Company*: nor shall the Estate of the said *Company* be liable either to be made over or *Seized* upon the Account of any debt due to his Majestie from any of the Particular Members thereof.

V.

That such Officers as shall have 20000 *Livres* in the said *Company* shal be dispensed their Residence: to which otherwise they are obliged by his Majesties *Declaration* of December last, at the *Treasury-Offices*, and other Places of their Establishment: enjoying all their Rights, *Allowances* and *Fees*, as if they were *Present*.

Allowed.

V. I.

That all such as shall have to the sum of 6000 *Livres* in the said *Company*, shall enjoy the Privilege of *Burghers* in the Towns where they *Live*; unless *Paris*, *Bordeaux*, and *Bayonne*: in which Places they shall not acquire their Freedome, unlesse they have the Interest of at least *Ten Thousand Livres* in the said *Company*.

Allowed:
Putting 8000
Livres in the
First Place and
20000 in the
Second.

V. I. I.

That all such as shall be willing to enter into the said *Company*, shall be obliged to declare themselves within *Six Months* to Commence from the Reading, and Registering of the *Declaration* in the Parliament

Allowed.
Upon Condition
on that all those
that have a
mind to engage
in the said
Company shall

declare themselves, and subscribe at the first Assembly; and at the same time chuse 12 *Directors* to take care of what is to be done in order to the Settlement of the *Company* till the *Directors* shall be nominated.

of

of *Paris*: after which time no more shall be admitted. And They that shall have furnished their Parts, and declared themselves accordingly, shall have liberty within *Three Months* after the Registering of the said Declaration to Nominate and Establish one *Moyet* of the Directors of *Paris* for the *Chamber General* of the said Company, and the Rest shall be named within the aforesaid Term of *Six Months*.

V I I I.

Allowed.

That there shall be established a *Chamber of Direction-General* of the Affairs of the said Company in the Town of *Paris* only, to consist of *One and Twenty Directors*, and no more: *Twelve* whereof to be of *Paris*, and the other *Nine*, of the *Provinces*; to be Named and Chosen: That is, the *Twelve*, by the Persons Concerned in the Town of *Paris*, and the other *Nine* by the Interested Persons in the said *Provinces*, every one in his Division; for every *Town* or *Province* shall have a Right of *Nomination*, which shall be Ordered by the *Chamber of Direction-General* after the settlement of it, in proportion to the *Stock* that every *Town* shall have brought into the said Company, or otherwise, as shall be thought Convenient; and for the future, the *Elections* shall be always made after this manner.

I X.

Allowed.

In the mean while, till the said Company shall be Established as aforesaid, for the first time, the said *Nine Directors* for the *Provinces* shall be chosen, and named by

by the Interested Parties in the said Towns and Provinces Respectively; (but Provided, that it may not be drawn into Consequence for the time to come). That is to say, One from each of the Towns of *Rouen*, *Nantes*, *St. Malo*, *Rochelle*, *Bourdeaux*, *Marseilles*, *Tours*, *Lyons*, and *Dunkerque*, or such other Towns of the Kingdome, as shall have the most Considerable Interest in the *Company*. And in case, that any of the said Towns shall be found without some Interested Person in it, there shall be Two named out of such other Town, as shall be Chosen by the *Six Directors* named for *Paris*: And it shall be lawfull for the Parties Interested in each of the said Towns respectively, to name their *Caissier* for the Receiving of their Moneys, and Remitting them to the *Caissier* of the Town of *Paris*; who shall be named for the first time by the said *Six Directors* of *Paris*, and so to continue till the *Chambers General* shall be established.

X.

That none shall be Capable of being *Directors*, but Merchants *Trading*, and without *Offices*, except such of the Kings *Secretaries* as have dealt formerly in *Commerce*: Only it shall be lawfull to admit *Two Burgers* into the number of the *Directors*, although they have never meddled with *Traffique*: Provided, that they be Persons that have no *Offices*, and that no more be taken into the said Chamber upon any ground whatsoever; the *Company* being perpetually to consist at the least of *Three Fourths* of *Negotiating Merchants*, and without *Offices*: Neither shall any man have a Vote in the

Allowed

H

Election

Election of the *Directors*, unless he has at least *Ten thousands Livres* in the *Company*: Nor be chosen a *Director* for *Paris* without *Twenty thousand Livres* at least; nor for the *Provinces* under *Ten thousand Livres*; all in the Interest of the said *Company*.

X I.

Allowed.

That it shall be lawfull for the Chamber of *Direction General* to constitute Chambers of *Particular Direction*, in such Numbers and Places as they shall finde most agreeable to the Interest and Benefit of the said *Company*; and likewise to Regulate the Number of the *Directors* of the said *Particular Chambers*.

X I I.

Allowed.

That all the *Accompts* of the Chambers of *Direction particular* of the *Provinces*, shall be sent from *Six months* to *Six Moneths*, to the Chamber of *Direction General* at *Paris*; where the *Accompt-Books* shall be View'd, Examined, and Stated, and the Profits afterward diuided by the said Chamber of *Direction General*, as they shall think meet.

X I I I.

Allowed.

That the said Chambers of *Direction General*, and *Particular*, shall name such Officers as shall be found necessary for keeping the *Cash*, *Books*, and *Papers* of *Accompts*, for *Buying* and *Selling*; for taking *Care* of all *Provisions*, and *Equipage*; paying of *Wages*, and other.

(51)

other ordinary Expences every man in his Proper place.

X I V.

That the *First Directors* shall continue in Power for the *First Seven Years*, after which time there shall be *Two* Changed every Year at *Paris*, and *One* in the *Other Chambers*; and the *First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Changes* of those that go out, shall be made by *Lot*: And in Case of Death of any of the *Directors*, within the *First Seven Years*, the other *Directors* shall have Power to fill that Vacancy with a new Choice; and it shall be permitted to Chuse the same *Director* again, after *six Years* Respite from the Execution of his Office: Nor shall it be lawfull for Father and Son, or Son in Law; nor for Brothers, and Brothers in Law to be *Directors* at the same time; and his Majesty shall be further supplicated to Confer upon the said *Directors* Certain Titles of *Honour*, and *Priviledges*, that may descend to their Posterity.

Allowed.

X V.

That the *Directors* of the said *Chambers Generall and Particular*, shall Reside by Turns, each man his Month, to begin with the *Antientest*, in each of them severally.

Allowed.

X V I.

That the said Chamber of *Generall Direction* shall be Empowered to make Statutes, and Rules for the Benefit

Allowed.

nefit, and Advantage of the said *Company*, which in Case of need shall be most humbly presented to his Majesty for the obteyning of his Royall Confirmation.

XVII.

That the said Chamber shall make a *General Accompt* every Six Years, of the Estate of the said *Company*, and no man shall be suffered to withdraw himself unlesse by the *Sale* of his *Action* to some one or other of the said *Company*, who shall alwayes uphold and maintain the same Right, so that the Stock be not diminished.

XVIII.

Allowed for
Fifty Years.

That his Majesty will Grant to the said *Company* (to the Exclusion of all other his Subjects) the *Sole Power* and *Faculty* of *Traffique* and *Navigation* from the *Cape of good Hope* throughout all *India*, and the *Eastern Seas* : Nay even from the *Streight of Magellan*, and the *Maire* throughout the *Southern Seas*, for the Term of *Fifty years*, to begin from the setting out of the First Shipping from this Kingdome ; during which time his Majesty shall be desired exprefly to inhibite all other Persons from entring upon the said Voyage, and *Commerce* ; under peyn of Forfeiting all their Veffels, Arms, Munitions, and Merchandize, to be applyed to the Profit of the said *Company*. To which Company his Majesty shall grant License to send Gold and Silver as much as shall be thought needfull, both into the Isle of *Magdagascar* ; and the *East-Indies* ; and other Places of the said *Commerce*, all Laws and Ordinances to the Contrary notwithstanding.

The Exporting
of *Gold* and *Sil-
ver* being a
Thing never
publickly per-
mitted in any
State, and yet
at present ac-
knowledged
to be necessary.
It shall be al-
lowed, by a par-
ticular Permis-
sion, to remain
in the Hands of
the Directors of
the said Compa-
ny.

XIX.. That

(53)

X I X.

That his Majesty shall be likewise Requested to grant unto the said *Company*, the *Propriety*, and *Lordship* of all those *Lands, Places and Isles*, which they shall either gain from the *Enemies* of his Majesty, or otherwise make themselves Masters of, whether as *Abandoned, uninhabited*, or in the possession of *Barbarians*

Allowed.

X X.

That his Majesty shall comprehend in the said *Concession*, the *Propriety* of the *Isle of Madagascar*, or *Saint Laurence*, with the *Neighbouring Islands*, *Forts*, *Habitations* and *Colonies* belonging unto any of his Subjects: Concerning which, his Majesty shall be most humbly desired to permit the *Company* to come to a fair *Treaty*, with those who may have formerly obtained the *Grant* thereof from his Majesty; or if not, that *Commissioners* may be appointed for the *Examination* of the *Interest* of all *Parties* therein concerned, for the *Indemnification* of the *Proprietors*, that the *Company* may quietly enjoy the same.

Allowed.

X X I.

That the *Propriety* of the said *Isles* and *things* belonging to the said *Company*, may remain unto them after the *Expiration* of the *Grant*, to dispose of according to their own *pleasure*, and as their proper *Inheritance*.

Allowed.

H 3.

XXII. That

XXII.

Allowed: Even to all Privileges of Justice & Admiralty in matters concerning the Sea Affairs throughout the whole extent of the said Countries.

That his Majesty shall vouchsafe to Give and Grant to the said Company, over and above the Jurisdictions annexed to the *Seignory and Proprietary* heretofore Granted, for the said Isle of *Madagascar* and others round about it, full Power and Authority to Establish Judges for the Exercise of *Sovereign Justice*, throughout the whole Extent of the said Countries, and such other as they shal subject to the Obedience of his Majesty; even over the *French* themselves who shall there inhabite; Provided, alwayes, that the said Company shall name to his Majesty the Persons whom they shall choose for the Exercise of the said *Sovereign Justice*, who shall swear *Allegiance* to his Majesty; and Execute *Justice*; and Issue out all their *Orders* and *Decrees* in his Majesties Name. To which effect, his Majesty (if he pleases) shall Empower and Authorize them by *Patent* or *Commission* under his *Great Seal*.

XXII.

Allowed.

That for the Execution of *Decrees*, and for all Acts where his Majesties *Seale* shall be Necessary, there shall be one Established, and put into the hands of him that shall preside over the said *Sovereign Justice*.

XXIV.

Allowed.

That the *Officers* constituted for the said *Sovereign Justice* shall be Authorized to Constitute likewise such a number of *Subordinate Officers*; and in such places as they

they shall think meet, to be by them supplyed with Commissions under the Name and Seal of his Majesty.

XXV.

That for Military Command, the said Company shall name to his Majesty a Governor-General of the Country, and of such other Countries as shall be subdued; whom his Majesty shall be humbly desired to Authorize with a Commission and to receive his Oath of Fidelity. And in Case that the said Company shall not be well satisfied with his Conduct, that they may be at Liberty to name some other, to be likewise Impowered by his Majesty.

Allowed.

XXVI.

That his Majesty will be pleased to grant to the said Company, the Power and Authority of Settling Garrisons in all the Places before-mentioned, and in such other as shall be Conquered or Built; consisting of what Numbers the Company shall think necessary: and therein to put Arms, Canon, and Ammunition; and to cast Guns and other Arms in what place soever, and in what Quantity soever they shall think needfull; with his Majesties Arms Imprinted upon them, and underneath Them, the Arms of the said Company; which shall be Authorized to provide for the safety of the said places as by them shall be thought Expedient. The Officers and Commanders of the said places to be totally dependent, and put in or out at the pleasure of the said Company; Provided always, that they shall all sweare

Allowed.

Allegiance.

Allegiance to the King, and after that, take a Particular Oath to the said Company in Consideration of Traflique and Commerce.

XXVII.

Allowed.

That his Majesty shall vouchsafe to Authorize the said Company to send Ambassadors in his Majesties name to the Kings of India, and to Treate with them, either upon Peace, or Truce, or even to Declare War with them, and to doe all other Acts which shall be deemed by the Company to be for the Advantage of the said Commerce.

XXVIII.

Allowed.

That the Directors of the Chamber-General and Particular shall keep Register-Books of all the Wages and Salaries, which they shall give to their Officers, Servants, Clerks, Work-men, Souldiers and others, which Bookes shall be good Evidence in Court, and serve for the Decision of Questions upon any demand or pretension against the said Company.

XXIX.

Allowed.

That of all differences that shall arise upon what cause soever concerning the said Company, betwixt Two or more Directors, or Interessed Persons, and any one Particular, touching the Affaires of the said Company, the Circumstances and Dependences shall be judged and determined by the Consulary Justice to the exclusion

exclusion of all others, whereof the Sentences and Judgments shall be executed *Sovereignly* and without *Appeal*, as far as 1500. *Livres*; and in Cases of a higher concern, the Judgments and Sentences shall be executed notwithstanding all *Oppositions* and *Appeals* whatsoever: The *Appeal* to be brought before the *Ordinary Judges* that are Properly to take *Cognizance* of the matter: to which effect his Majesty shall be desired to Establish the *Consular Justice* before spoken of, in the Town where it is not; and wheresoever else his Majesty shall finde it necessary.

XXX.

That all *Criminal* matters wherein any of the said *Company* shall be a *Party*, whether as *Plaintiff* or *Defendant*, shall be determined by the *Ordinary Judges*, provided alwayes that for no *Cause* or *Pretext* whatsoever, the *Criminal* shall ever carry along with it the *Civill*; which shall be still judged as is aforesaid.

Allowed.

XXXI.

That his Majesty shall have the goodness to promise to the said *Company Protection* and *Defence* against all *Opposers*, and by force of *Arms*, to maintain them upon all occasions in the entire freedome of their *Commerce* and *Navigation*, and see them *Repaired* in case of any *Injuries* or *Affronts* offered them. And in Case further of any designe against the said *Company*, to appoint them such *Convoyes* both *Forward* and *Backward*, at his proper Charge and Expence, as may be suffici-

ent

Allowed.

ent to secure the Company not only over all the Coasts of Europe and Africa, but even as far as India it self.

XXXII.

Allowed.

That his Majesty shall be pleased to Advance at present out of his own Coffers, a Fifth Part of the whole expence for the Three First Expeditions, so that so soon as ever the Person Authorized for the receiving of the monyes shall be named by the Company, his Majesty shall cause to be delivered into his hand Three Hundred thousand Livres, and upon his receiving of Four Hundred Thousand Livres from the Persons Engaged, his Majesty shall cause to be delivered Three hundred thousand Livres more, and so forward to Three Fifths, for the first Year, which comes to one Fifth upon the whole; (his Majesty furnishing nothing at all for the Two following years) by virtue of which Advance his Majesty will give a Foundation to the Establishment of the said Company, which will be of so great Advantage to the State.

XXXIII.

Allowed.
Provided that the whole Estate of the said Company shall be valued ~~bond~~ by the Chamber of Direction General.

That his Majesty shall be Graciously pleased to Lend the said summe to the said Company, without Interest; and even without any Participation in the said Adventure, his Majesty contenting himself with the Companies Obligation of paying back the said summe without Interest at the end of Ten Years, to reckon from the day whereupon the said Company shall have perfected their First Capital Stock; and in case that at the end of the said Ten Year, it should appear by a General Accont then

then to be made, that the said Company had lost of their Capital, that the whole damage shall fall upon That summe which his Majesty shall have advanced. And his said Majesty shall be most humbly desired upon valuation of the Estate of the Company (to see whether they have gained or lost) not to reckon upon *Immovables, Fortifications, Cannon and Ammunitions*; and to content himself with such accompt as shall be stated by the Company, without bringing them to any further reckoning before the Chamber of Accompts, or elsewhere.

XXXIV.

That the *Merchandises* that shall come from the *Indies* and be consumed in *France*; shall pay but *half* the duties charged upon them by his Majesties Rates, for his *Rights* of the *Five Grofs Farms*; which *Majesty* shall be regulated at so much *per Cent*; And for such *Commodities* as shall be sent into *Forreign Countries*, or *Countries* exempt from *Custome*, whether by *Sea* or *Land*, they shall pay no duties at all, either *In*, or *Out*: and shall be deposited in their *Store-houses* of the *Customs* and *Harbours* of the *Places* where they *Arrive*; where there are any such; and where there are none, they shall be *Marked* with *Lead*, and laid up, till they are to be taken away, at which *places* an *accomppt* of them shall be given to the *persons* *Interest*ed, or to the *Clark* of the said *Five Grofs Farms* signed by one of the *Directors* of the said *Company*: And upon their removal elsewhere there shall be an *Obligation* of bringing back within a *Certain* time a *Receipt* with *Proof* that they are

Allowed, as to the *Exemption* of all *Duties*; the *valuation* of *commodities* *un-*
known, by the *Chamber-Gene-*
rall, and the *Re-*
gulation of the *Rights* upon *them* at *three* *per Cent*. And in *regard* that the *discharge* of *one* *half* of the *duties* of *entry* *cannot* be *gran-*
ted in *manner* *as* *is* *desired*, for the *Reasons* *which* *have* *al-*
ready *appeared* *upon* the *debate* *there* *shall* *be* *allowed* *instead* *there* *of* *acertain* *summ* *upon* the

return *of* *each* *Vessel* *coming* *from* the *Indies*, according to the *Regulation* *that* *shall* *be* *made* *thereupon*.

Arrived: And as to *Merchandizes unknown*, and not as yet *Rated*, they shall pay *Three per Cent.* according to the valuation that shall be made of them by the *Chamber-General* of the said *Company*.

XXXV.

Allowed.

That *Wood*, and other *Necessaries* for building of the *ships* of the said *Company* shall be *Exempt* from all duties of *Entry*; The *Vessells* and *Merchandizes* free from the Duties ^{the} of *Admiralty* and *Wood*; and the *Munitions* of *War*, *Victualls*, and other things necessary for *Victuallings* and *Embarquings* requisite for the said *Company*, shall be free from all *Rights of In and Out*, during the Term of the present Privilege.

XXXVI.

Allowed.

That his Majesty shall order the furnishing of the said *Company* for their *Provisions* and *Equipages* with the Quantity of a *Hundred Measures of Salt*, or what other number the said *Company* shall have occasion for, in the Town of *Haure de Grâce*, by the Hand of the *Clerk* of the *Store* of that Town, and at the *Merchants Price*: provided always, that the *Company* shall deal fairly in the businesse, without abusing the Grant.

XXXVII.

Allowed.

That his Majesty shall permit the said *Company* to settle *Ecclesiasticks* in the said Isles of *Madagascar*, and other places where they shall plant themselves, in such Number, and of such *Quality* as the *Company* shall judge *Convenient*.

XXXVIII.

(63)

XXXVII

That his Majesty shall be most humbly desired, not to grant any Letters of *Protection, Respit, Evacuation, or Delay*, to any that shall have bought the Goods of the said Company, or Sold any thing to their Use and Service, that so the Company may be alwayes in Condition to compel their *Debtors* to make just payment, according to the Form and Tenor of their Obligations.

Allowed.

XXXIX.

That his Majesty shall be most humbly desired, to vouchsafe that the *Sieurs Poquelin Pere, Maillet Pere, le Brun, de Faverolles, Cadeau, Samson, Simonet, Jabac, & Scot*, Merchants; may present these *Articles*, and receive his pleasure thereupon: This *Establishment* being of infinite Advantage both to his Majesties *Kingdome*, and all his *Subjects*, who shall redouble their Vows and Prayers for the Long continuance of his Majesties health.

Allowed.

XL.

That his Majesty be most humbly desired, by the *Deputies* above-named, to vouchsafe, that in case any *thing*,

Allowed.

to be allowed to deliver ~~any~~ ^{any} ~~articles~~ ^{articles} of
any kind per ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~time~~ ^{time} ~~pleased~~ ^{pleased} to appoint to
make report thereof to his Majesty, and to be made
use of in his Declaration which shall be issued in Con-
sequence of this present Petition.

~~Exhibited and
Concluded in
Our Councils
the last day of
May 1664.~~

Signed

LOVIS
and underneath
DE LYONNE.

**Done and Resolved at the Assembly
held by his Majesties Gracious
Permission at the House of Mon-
sieur Faverolles, Merchant at
Paris, Tuesday May 26. 1664.**

FINIS.

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114. ~~any~~ ^{any} ~~articles~~ ^{articles} of ~~any~~ ^{any} ~~time~~ ^{time} ~~pleased~~ ^{pleased} to appoint to
make report thereof to his Majesty, and to be made
use of in his Declaration which shall be issued in Con-
sequence of this present Petition.

